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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

50X1

CD NO.

COUNTRY China

DATE DISTR. / 8 Nov 1953

SUBJECT Ningpo-Chuan Shan Highway

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NO. OF ENCLS.
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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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1. The highway between Ningpo and Chuan Shan on the coast of Chekiang was built as a private undertaking by the Ning-Chuan Highway Company, some time in the thirties [redacted] probably 1935 or 1936. The road was never operated as a toll road and has always been open to the public. The company operated a bus service over it and also had a fleet of hire cars which it rented to sight-seers.
2. The road is a two-lane sand and earth road. Over the greater part of its length it has no rock ballast or other foundation, but in places where it crosses rice paddy fields a foundation was provided. Being now some 25 years old 1953, the road has packed sufficiently to be usable in all seasons by ordinary traffic. However, it is not built substantially enough to stand heavy truck or military traffic.
3. There is no major bridge on this highway, although there are numerous short spans. Many of these were destroyed by the Japanese during the fighting in the neighborhood of Ningpo. During 1946, after the end of World War II, the destroyed and damaged bridges were replaced or repaired by the Company, but they were again destroyed by the retreating Nationalists in 1948/49. When the Communists obtained control of the area, they required the Company to rebuild the bridges under a ruling that the road was necessary in the public interest. Typically the original bridges were one lane wide, wooden decks on concrete piers, although there may have been a few concrete spans. [redacted] Traffic on the road is light and the bridges are short so that the fact that they are one lane does not delay traffic.

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CLASSIFICATION

CONFIDENTIAL SECURITY INFORMATION

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50X1 4. [redacted] the Company is still operating a bus service. It had /1948/

50X1 a fleet of some 20 vehicles, half buses and half cars. [redacted]

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50X1 [redacted]

5. The road is of small economic importance. It was built to attract tourist traffic /Chinese tourists/ and passes two famous old temples and a number of scenic areas. Chuan Shan is in a bamboo growing area and is a center for the manufacture of bamboo ware which is transported to Ningpo over this highway. This is the only freight traffic to use the road and it is not of much volume. The real value of the road is for passenger traffic.

50X1 [redacted] Note: The Ning-Chuan Highway is shown on Janis 76 - Plan 17, (Yin Hsien), as an improved all-weather road/.

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LIBRARY SUBJECT & AREA CODES

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